



Climate Change Working Group

Work Plan

Issue: Climate Change

The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) was established by the HIHWNMS Advisory Council during its December 15, 2010 meeting, for the purpose of developing recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) on actions that the sanctuary could incorporate into its management plan review process regarding climate change issues and impacts to sanctuary resources.

Description:

Global climate change affects ocean and atmospheric temperatures, sea water chemistry, and ocean circulation patterns, which in turn, may pose significant threats to marine ecosystems, such as ocean acidification, coral bleaching, invasive species, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. Climate change, as it relates to the HIHWNMS Management Plan Review, involves three major issues: 1) potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to humpback whales and their habitat, 2) broader marine ecosystem impacts within the Hawaiian Archipelago, and 3) “green” sanctuary operations.

Method of Communication within the Working Group:

Conducting Working Group Business: Decisions will be made by consensus.

Meetings and communications will be through email, conference calls, Go-To-Meetings, and if necessary, meetings in person.